

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SAXTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RAMSTAD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. This Veterans Day we recognize the tremendous personal sacrifice made by those persons who answered the call of duty in order to defend and safeguard the democratic principles that we define in our Nation.

We acknowledge today American veterans, and express our appreciation for the many personal contributions made

by them as the defenders of America's freedom and protectors of democracy around the world. From their ranks come noble persons of virtually every ethnic and religious background, hailing from every State in the Union, all having at one point committed themselves to defending the freedoms we Americans hold dear.

Millions of Americans have done their duty. They have done it quietly without fanfare, and never with enough recognition. They have kept our country free, and it is right that we remind ourselves of this every November 11.

For the State of New Mexico, this day of observance is of special significance because even before achieving statehood, New Mexicans answered the call of duty by marching off to serve in distant and often hostile places.

During the Civil War, New Mexicans bore arms to preserve a union they were not yet part of, engaging in battles in places like Valverde and Glorietta. Among the ranks of present-day veterans are New Mexicans who served in the first world war, who fought bravely in the trenches of Europe, and the many proud New Mexico veterans of World War II whose strength, in the words of Mr. Tennyson, "once moved Earth and heaven," still share with us the character that led them to a crucial victory.

Among them are the airmen, the soldiers and sailors and Marines that fought courageously across Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. They marched the long road to Bataan, stormed the beaches of Normandy, and eventually rolled on to victory in Europe and the Pacific, the entire time exemplifying uncommon valor and the unwavering commitment to their fellow man and the preservation of democracy. We honor them today and tomorrow, and we should honor them every day.

I would especially like to talk about several New Mexico veterans that have made very many significant contributions. We still have 95 living veterans from the Bataan Death March. We have the Navajo code talkers, who played a major role in our victory in World War II. We have many more New Mexicans who have served our country valiantly.

We honor them by passing legislation which honors what they have done for us and what they have given to us, our freedom.

This year the VA-HUD conference report provides for a \$1.7 billion increase in funding for VA medical care. This is a 10 percent increase over last year's funding.

We have also passed several other important pieces of legislation:

H.R. 2116, the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act of 1999. This bill establishes a program of extended care services for veterans, and makes other improvements in health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 2180, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1999, this bill provides a cost of living adjustment for disability compensation and pensions,

restores eligibility for CHAMPVA medical care, education, and housing loans to surviving spouses who lost eligibility for these benefits as a result of remarriage; and finally, H.R. 1568, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999. This bill provides technical financial and procurement assistance to veteran-owned small businesses.

Several of these bills came out of the committees I serve on, which I am proud to serve on, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on Small Business, which many times wants to work and help those businesses that have been started by veterans.

So I am honored to serve on those two committees. I am honored that we have, in New Mexico, such fine veterans, and I just wanted to rise today and pay tribute to them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE COMING REVOLUTION IN AMERICA WITH HIGH-SPEED BROAD BAND INTERNET SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in special order to begin what will become in the next year, the year 2000, one of the most serious debates that I think this House will ever engage in. As we meet here in this Chamber, an historic revolution is occurring, as silently as the day, perhaps, when the United States produced more plastic than it did steel.

As we speak today, a revolution in our economy, in our communications, in our whole international social structure, is happening all around us. It is a revolution called the Internet, and it is about to explode upon the world in a new and faster form called broad band Internet.

Just recently one of the groups here in Washington, Legg-Mason, did a study to indicate how fast would this new broad band high-speed Internet be deployed in our great country, how soon would citizens have access to this amazing new system by which we will not only conduct our business, but entertain one another and learn from one another, and eventually even deliver medical services to one another?

Legg-Mason indicated that 3 years from now they anticipate that approximately half of Americans will have access to high-speed broad band Internet